

January 3, 1845

Dearest Family,

I hope this letter finds you in good health. Today I want to alert you to something of the greatest importance. It is with great distress that I must tell of the awful conditions found at the mills. Please do not think of sending my dear sisters to this wretched place. The mill owners pay us very little for the many hours of hard work we do every day.

As you know my work hours are long. I work 13 hours every day, except for the Sabbath, for this I am paid just one dollar a week. It is true that my breakfast is provided on workdays otherwise I would have nothing to eat.

The working conditions are very unsafe, few days pass without a horrible accident of some sort. Even with all the accidents the mills have increased the rate at which we must work, daily more and more girls are severely injured. I fear for the health of those who have no access to fresh air, luckily I am near a window and my health remains strong since I breathe fresh air.

The mill is an awful place; no one should have to work in these conditions. Please dear sisters do not be tempted to work at these mills. Tell everyone you see just how wretched the mills are and they should do anything else to earn a living. I shall be quitting my job after I receive my week's pay.

With my deepest love,  
Lucy Larcom

*Lucy Larcome*